

AFAFD Standard Operating Procedure 25

Helicopter Landing and Safety Considerations

Note: Refer to AFAFD Standard Operating Procedure 25A for guidelines when requesting Flight for Life

- Minimum 60 x 60 feet square landing area (Optimum is 80 x 80)
 - Larger area may be required for a *Blackhawk* or *Chinook* helicopter
- Area should be reasonably level with a slope not greater than 10 degrees
- Area should be free of loose debris, litter or other objects
- Order of preference for landing sites: Concrete, grass, asphalt, gravel, slick rock, snow, dirt
- Provide wind direction and speed
 - Use banner tape on a pole (or hold overhead) to indicate wind direction
- Be prepared to provide our radio frequency (163.375 MHz) to the helicopter crew; when you make contact with the crew, advise them of any potential hazards
- Once the helicopter lands, do not approach it while the blades are turning unless the pilot acknowledges your presence and signals that you may approach
- **NEVER** approach from the tail; Approach from the front or side but **ONLY** with permission from the pilot
- Approach and leave the helicopter in full view
- On sloping terrain, approach/depart helicopter in area of greatest clearance under the rotors
- Keep well clear of landing area when helicopter is landing or taking off
- **DO NOT RAISE ARMS ABOVE HEAD** when approaching/departing helicopter with the blades turning (IV poles, etc.)
- **DO NOT THROW OR JAM** equipment into or out of the helicopter
- Load and secure patient and equipment as the crew instructs you to do so
- **DO NOT SLAM DOORS.** The crew will close the doors if you are not familiar with them